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TO: Examiner Saleh Najjar

FIRM: U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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FROM: Johnfar Kerlee

CLIENT CODE: MTIPAT.141A

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**INFORMAL COMMUNICATION
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TO: Examiner Saleh Najjar

FROM: John Carson
Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear L.L.P.

RE: U.S. Patent Application No. 08/943,356
MANAGING COMPUTER SYSTEM ALERTS
(Attorney Ref. No. MTIPAT.141A)

DATE: December 5, 2001

Dear Examiner Najjar:

Pursuant to your request, we are providing you with this memorandum with items for our discussion during the teleconference scheduled for tomorrow.

Illustrative Claim

1. A method of monitoring alerts regarding the status of components in a computer, comprising acts of:
 - displaying a plurality of alert types to a user in a graphic display, each of said alert types corresponding to a status of components in the computer;
 - receiving a plurality of unfiltered alerts, each of said alerts corresponding to an alert type;
 - allowing a user to selectively disable or enable automatic display of one or more of said alerts to the user by selecting or deselecting a corresponding alert type in said graphic display; and
 - recording status information associated with said alerts in a storage medium.

U.S. Patent No. 5,751,933 to Dev et al.

As stated by the Examiner, Dev fails to teach the feature of Claim 1 reciting "allowing a user to selectively disable or enable automatic display of one or more of said alerts to the user by selecting or deselecting a corresponding alert type."

↓

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WO 95/09387 to Weele et al.

Weele does not teach "allowing a user to selectively disable or enable automatic display of one or more of said alerts to the user by selecting or deselecting a corresponding alert type in said graphic display," as recited in amended Claim 1.

Weele teaches that the unacknowledged alarms window [46] "cannot be moved, iconized, or closed." *Weele* at page 17, line 33. The unacknowledged alarms window [46] "can be covered by another window," only "if there are no unacknowledged alarms present." *Id.* at page 17, lines 34-35. "The information listed in the unacknowledged alarm window [46] will remain fully visible whenever there are any unacknowledged alarms." *Id.* at page 49, lines 18-19. Moreover, "no filtering . . . is allowed in the Unacknowledged Alarm Overview Window." *Id.* at page 49, line 23.

Weele teaches that an alert appearing in the unacknowledged alert window [46] may be selected by the operator for transferring the alert to an active alarm window [48]. The active alarm window [48] may then be obfuscated, iconized, or rendered undisplayable by the operator. However, Weele does not teach that an "operator may manipulate the interface screen display so that alarms in unacknowledged alarms window [46] are not displayed there and are moved automatically to active alarms window [48]," as posited by the Examiner. (emphasis added).

Rather than allowing the disabling or enabling of automatic display of alerts, Weele's system requires that for each alert the operator must intervene. That is, to remove the alarm from view, the operator is required to manually select each alarm issued for transferring it from the unacknowledged alarms window [46] to the active alarms window [48].

Furthermore, when an alert is issued in Weele's system, the alert is automatically displayed to the operator in the unacknowledged alarms window [46], and Weele's system does not give the operator the option of disabling this automatic display of the alert by selecting a corresponding alert type.

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